

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Forest Pest Management
Box 5895, Asheville, N. C. 28803

5230

April 25, 1975



Mr. Joseph Keluza, Superintendent
Mammoth Cave National Park
Mammoth Cave, Kentucky 42259

Dear Mr. Keluza:

This follows the April 3 visit of Bill Sites, Denny Ward, and Betty White to Mammoth Cave Park. Their comments follow:

We observed few insect and disease problems. A few hardwoods in the campground have deteriorated or died during the last winter. We indicated their location to Mr. Strange.

Since most of the trees in the campground and picnic area are hardwoods, the major problems will probably be crown decline caused by injury to the roots. This is a common problem in areas where soil compaction results in poor aeration and reduced moisture. Compaction is largely unavoidable when traffic is heavy, and control is gained largely through crown pruning. We were aware of your exceptional efforts to provide protection to persons and facilities by the top pruning evident in these areas.

We also checked the Fomes annosus center on highway 70. It appears that the infection has not spread to the surrounding trees.

No serious insect problems were observed during the visit. Previous surveys have detected small populations of pine sawflies, Neodiprion spp., therefore, we will probably conduct an aerial survey later in the spring or summer to see if the sawflies are still active on the Park.

Enclosed are several copies of the booklet "Insects and Diseases of Trees in the South". They may be of help to members of your staff.

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If we can be of any further service to you, please feel free to call.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John H. Thompson".

JOHN H. THOMPSON
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Mr. Richard Strange
Mr. Rich Klukas